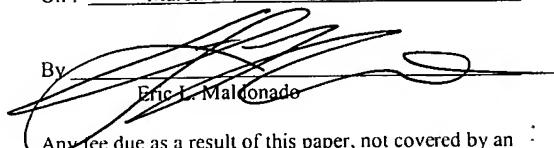




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By   
Eric L. Maldonado

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No.50-1290.

Attorney Docket No. SCEP 20.746 (100809-00226)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Shinya WADA  
Serial No.: 10/723,296  
Filed: November 26, 2003  
Title: PHOTOGRAPHING ASSIST DEVICE...  
Examiner:  
Art Unit: 2613  
Con. No.: 5553

March 16, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the documents listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of an International Search Report dated March 4, 2004 from the corresponding International Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the International Search Report.

As some of these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

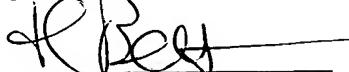
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

**Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.**

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Bean  
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Docket No.: SCEP 20.746 (100809-00226)

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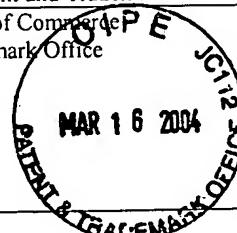
1449/PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No.	: 10/723,296
Filing Date	: November 26, 2003
First Named Inventor:	S. WADA
Group Art Unit	: 5553
Examiner Name	:
Attorney Docket No. : SCEP 20.746	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		5,093,653		IKEHIRA	03/03/1992	

**FOREIGN DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		04-096585	JP	BROTHER IND LTD	03/27/1992	
		2002-044686	JP	JOHO KAGAKU KENKYUSHO:KK	02/08/2002	
		198 56 619	DE	KAYA, TURGUT	06/15/2000	
		0 980 181	JP	MOVIE ENGINEERING SRL	02/16/2000	

**Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents**

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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